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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 23, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HW S*

RE: Site Visit, Happy Jack Mine, M/037/024, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: April 23, 1991  
Time of Inspection: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
Conditions: Cool, sunny  
Participants: William Petty, land owner; Holland Shepherd, DOGM

I met today at the Happy Jack mine site with Mr. William Petty, who is in the process of purchasing this mine site from Mr. Jody Bierschied, who recently purchased the site from Atlas Minerals. Atlas Minerals is the present operator on record with the Division, and still holds responsibility for reclamation at the site. Mr. William Petty will be assuming those responsibilities through a formal transfer of the site and posting a bond with the Division.

Mr. Petty was on hand to help supervise an ongoing reclamation at the Happy Jack. Mr. Jody Bierschied is doing the reclamation, has contracted with Mr. Petty to do it. My purpose for being on site during this time was also to supervise the reclamation and ensure that the reclamation that is being done corresponds with state requirements and commitments that were made in the past by Atlas and Mr. Bierschied.

When I arrived on site, Mr. Bierschied was not there; however, Mr. Petty was. Mr. Bierschied had to return to Grand Junction, Colorado to pick up a part for a broken down bulldozer. Some of the reclamation had already occurred. Two of the portals had been backfilled by that time. Some of the grading of the dumps, along the north end of the site and within the staging area, had already been accomplished by that time. Unfortunately, nothing had been done to accommodate the bat question, having to do with accessing the portals. Mr. Petty decided that, in order to be as conservative as possible, to completely seal the portals instead of leaving something up to question for later on down the road.

Page 2  
Site Visit  
Happy Jack Mine  
M/037/024  
April 23, 1991

Mr. Petty indicated to me that he anticipates the reclamation to be complete by Friday, at the end of this week. He also indicated that portions of the site which are of pre-law disturbance will be cleaned up and reclaimed. I indicated to him that the Division had no jurisdiction over these areas, however, was quite happy to hear that he wanted to go ahead and reclaim these other areas outside of the designated permit area. Mr. Petty was concerned that there would be a question of reimpacting these areas and then having to be addressed under the current mined land reclamation law. I indicated to him that the Division would not hold him responsible for areas that he reimpacted for the purpose of reclamation.

Mr. Petty wanted to know if it would be OK to go ahead and seed this spring. I told him that it would be wiser to wait until fall, probably the latter part of October to do the seeding on the site. Mr. Petty was concerned about the amount of bond he could be released from in the immediate future. I told him that he would be released for all of the bond except that portion which would address the revegetation component of the reclamation surety. I indicated to Mr. Petty that this amount should be no more than \$2,000 of the current reclamation estimate, which is approximately \$14,000.

Mr. Petty does plan to eventually build a home on the site. Not on the area where the mining occurred; however, there is another area above the site, which overlooks some of the site where he intends to build a permanent dwelling. The mine site just happens to be on the private property which he has purchased and the reason for reclamation is that he would like to clean it up; also, he wants to comply with state requirements for reclamation. Mr. Petty intends to go the extra step and clean up and reclaim the site in a manner, which is beyond that of state requirements.

Since I won't be around to see the completion of this reclamation work, Mr. Petty offered to take photographs of the completed reclamation and send them to me as documentation that the work had been completed. Upon receipt of this information, I plan to go ahead in a petition to the Board to accept the new reclamation surety, which should be in the amount of less than \$2,000. After the surety has been accepted by the Board and transfer papers have been drawn up, Atlas can then be released from their reclamation obligations at this site.

The mine access road was originally addressed in the permit as something that would be reclaimed at the time mining was completed at this site. This road is now being used for access to the site, and will be permanent access, so it will eliminate



Page 3  
Site Visit  
Happy Jack Mine  
M/037/024  
April 23, 1991

the requirement for reclamation of the road. The current land owner, Mr. Petty, will be using this road, along with individuals who hold claims in the area. Also, there are recreationists that use this access road.

Much of the debris on site will be buried at the site in various locations. The debris consists mostly of old pieces of rusting metal, some timber, but most of it is rusting metal and junk parts from cars and mining equipment. The waste dumps will not be reclaimed in their entirety. These large dumps on the northern part of the site are, for the most part, pre-law dumps and only the tops having been disturbed since the initiation of the Act in 1975. Only the top portions of these dumps will be rounded, regraded and reseeded. Mr. Petty has expressed a great deal of concern that the site be reclaimed to a point where eventually it will begin to take on a natural look. He recognizes that this will take many years to occur, but wants to ensure that the process is set into motion. It is his intention to eventually reside at this site year round, and he plans to continue his reseeded efforts as the years go by, even after bond release.

jb  
cc: Wayne Hedberg  
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